

**The Decree**  
**OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF**  
**NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE**

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## Changes this year are fresh breaths

This has been a very exciting semester for North Carolina Wesleyan College. It has been full of changes and new beginnings. We have a new Fine Arts Center, a new president, a new development officer, a new phone company, new resident directors, and soon a new academic dean.

You could look at these changes from two perspectives. One could be with fear and disappointment, finding the changes as signs that the college is unstable. This is possibly a fair way to look at things if you are determined to be closed-minded and pessimistic.

The college is getting a new breath of life. It is on its way to redefining itself as an academic institution. That definition is uncertain now, but from where we are there is no place to go but up.

Our school has many problems. All of our problems are capable of being solved if we open the lines of communication on campus. Not only that, we must be willing to put our own selfish interests aside and act in the best interest of the

institution. This means not only students will have to cooperate but faculty as well. The time of clichés has to come to an end.

The damming problem we have here at Wesleyan is the unwillingness to acknowledge our problems. It seems Wesleyan feels that if they ignore problems they will go away or somehow magically they will not exist anymore. Then, adding insult to injury, when the problem can no longer be ignored Wesleyan then dismisses it and those whom the problem affects. This can no longer go on. If Wesleyan is to benefit from the new breath of life it has received it must change its approach to difficult issues. What use is there putting new wine into a tattered wine sack?

Every institution has problems and sore spots; there is no shame in that. Where the shame lies is in when we put our head in the sand and refuse to deal, and when we condemn others for dealing. Wesleyan's living in a bubble of illusion is not really living, and it is about time we burst.

### Letters to the editor policy

*The Decree* accepts only signed letters to the editors. Unsigned letters will not be printed. Letters should not exceed 400 words. Letters need to be placed in the campus post office and marked "Decree" or placed in the *Decree* office in the Hardees building. Letters must be received by Friday of the week prior to the next issue in order to be printed in that issue.

*The Decree* reserves the right to edit or reject letters for grammar, libel, or good taste.



### Fab Four had market savvy

## Beatles will rock forever

By DR. STEVE FEREBEE

For those of us who may be cynical about the latest Beatles invasion, let me say this: eat their dust.

Let me also say this: the Beatles have always been blessed with impeccable marketing genius.

One of the comments I've heard recently which has stuck with me was a guy about my age being interviewed on National Public Radio. He said that in November 1963 he learned that adults could cry (when President Kennedy was killed); in February 1964 he learned that teenagers could scream (when the Beatles appeared on Ed Sullivan's Sunday evening variety show).

Timing and marketing cer-

### Dr. Steve Muses

tainly helped. When the Beatles landed in New York they were greeted by a mob of tearful girls in those early 1960s teased-up hairdos and boys (stunned by the girls' reactions) in shiny coats and ties. The press conference which followed is a revelation.

In fact, more interesting to me than the double-CD of early music (full of rollicking-good-time rock and roll) is another newly available CD of interviews. Timing and marketing may account for the first rush of enthusiasm; in our capitalist culture they al-

ways do. But in 30 years we will not remember *Toy Story* gimmicks in \$1.99 kids' meals at McDonalds, while the Beatles will even then still sing.

The other two essentials which account for the lasting impacts of the Beatles are talent and personality. These guys were funny, intelligent, and charming. The early interviews especially reveal four working-class dudes bowled over by their own sense of what they were: a small rock and roll group who had paid its dues by playing dives in Hamburg and Liverpool for 12-hour stretches. They played well and with enjoyment.

We came to know the Beatles through their music, which was fun (*Twist and Shout*) and inno-

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## Photo incident disheartening

By ALAN P. FELTON

Someone once said that a picture is worth a thousand words. That little adage has never been more true than in regard to the 1995 *Dissenter* which includes a photo of a North Carolina Wesleyan student dressed in blackface and holding a bottle of Aunt Jemima syrup. Yes, that picture carries a message that is loud and clear, but apparently not loud or clear enough based on some student and faculty reaction.

In the resulting hoopla after the publication of the offending

### Notes from the Bunker

photo, two questions quickly came to mind. Was the incident a deliberate act of racism or was the photo printed because of the appalling ignorance of some members of the NCWC community?

Dr. Vivienne Anderson, advisor to the yearbook, said she did not know about the term blackface

and its negative racial message. Others, including many students, believe this was a willful and planned racial slur.

I have yet to determine which occurred, but in either case the message being sent is both disheartening and frightening.

In the case of this photo, ignorance is not bliss nor is it a defense for allowing a piece of racist filth to be published in a college's yearbook. Many students, and obviously Dr. Anderson, have failed to understand

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